



PRODUCTS AND SERVICES BULLETIN

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)

COASTAL SERVICES CENTER

FALL 2006

This quarterly publication supplies up-to-date information on tools and services developed for the nation's state and local coastal programs by the NOAA Coastal Services Center. For more information, please contact Kitty.Fahey@noaa.gov.

New Products and Services

"Saving Our Coast" site. A new Web site hosted by New Orleans TV station Fox 8 provides environmental information aimed at helping the region repair and restore coastal wetlands and barrier islands. Many NOAA products and services are featured on the site, which is located at <http://wvue.iewatershed.com>. The Center partnered with StormCenter Communications Inc. in this effort. For more information, contact Donna.McCaskill@noaa.gov.

Boundary-making handbook. *Marine Managed Areas: Best Practices for Boundary Making* provides a useful "best practices" guide for writing boundary descriptions within a geographic information system framework. The handbook was developed by federal and state boundary experts under the auspices of the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Marine Boundary Working Group. Numerous NOAA offices contributed to this effort. To download a PDF of the handbook, visit www.csc.noaa.gov/products/mb_handbook/. To receive a hard copy of the publication, contact Meredith.Westington@noaa.gov or Cindy.Fowler@noaa.gov.

Visualizing dock growth using the Web. This Web site allows users to explore the potential visual impacts of different proposed regulations for small docks and piers in specific locations. The site also allows for analysis of historical trends. Aerial photography and computer-generated 3-D visualizations and animations are among the tools used to illustrate these impacts. This Web site will be available in the near future at www.csc.noaa.gov/dock_growth/.

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Visualization software guide. Managers who wish to use visualization as a tool but lack the resources or expertise now have an alternative. The Center has created a guide for an easy-to-use software program that is available free of charge. A PowerPoint demonstration and a collection of additional coastal objects that can be used with the software are included on the Web page at www.csc.noaa.gov/visualizations/.

HURREVAC quick reference guide. The Center, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has published *HURREVAC: A Quick Reference Guide*, a companion publication to the HURREVAC software tool used by emergency managers for hurricane evacuation planning. Visit www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/downloads.shtml to download the reference guide. For more information, or to obtain a hard copy of the guide, contact Jodie.Towers@noaa.gov.

Conservation data documentation training. This is a new, hands-on course designed to give geographic information system (GIS) users information and tools for documenting data, with emphasis placed on ArcGIS as a metadata authoring tool. At the conclusion of the course, participants will be given a template that can be used for other data documentation projects. For more information, contact Steve.Walker@noaa.gov.

Verification statements for in-situ chlorophyll fluorometers. The Alliance for Coastal Technologies (ACT), a Coastal Observation Technology System partner supported by the Center, evaluated eight different types of in-situ fluorometers designed for measuring chlorophyll. ACT tested nine different field sites or conditions, including tropical coral reef, high turbidity estuary, ocean (open), and freshwater lake environments. Instrument performance verification helps identify effective existing technologies and makes promising new technologies available. For more information, contact Jeff.Payne@noaa.gov.

Bringing ocean information providers together. The Community Information Repository (<http://ocean.us/cir/>) is an information resource designed to help regional ocean observing systems find and share best practices in data transport and discovery. This portal is a joint effort between the Center and Ocean.US. For more information, contact Daniel.Martin@noaa.gov.

Needs assessment completed for northern California coast. Conservation organizations in northern California, in an effort to increase efficiency and effectiveness, completed an assessment focused on current conditions and future goals. The Center was a primary funding source and one of the main

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partners in this effort. The second step will likely be the formation of a coalition to determine how the various organizations might work together to reach common goals. To view the needs assessment on the Web, visit www.nrsrcaa.org/linkinglandsea/index.htm. Please contact Rebecca.Smyth@noaa.gov to receive a hard copy of the assessment.

Restoration input approach in Olympia, Washington. The Center worked with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to collect public input on the economic implications of restoring the Deschutes Estuary in Olympia, Washington. The series of focus groups and public meetings will play a key role in assessing net economic benefits of restoring the estuary. For more information, contact Zac.Hart@noaa.gov.

Updated Products and Services

East coast topographic, bathymetric data. Combined 2005/2006 topography and bathymetry light detection and ranging (lidar) data are now available for download from the Center's Web site. The data, collected by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, cover approximately 500 meters inland and up to 1,000 meters seaward of coastal New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina. In the coming weeks, the Center will be adding lidar data collected in coastal North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The Center distributes topographic and bathymetric lidar data, collected by the Center and its partners, from its data download page at www.csc.noaa.gov/ldart/. For more information, contact Kirk.Waters@noaa.gov.

Place-based training for Pacific Island region. The Pacific Services Center has developed an advanced, four-day training course on geographic information system analysis that helps coastal zone managers and emergency managers apply "real-world" scenarios to Pacific Island environments. Trainings are taking place in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. For more information, contact Darcee.Killpack@noaa.gov.

Updated dock and pier management report. The Center has released a report titled, "Residential Docks and Piers: Inventory of Laws, Regulations, and Policies for the New England Region." A similar report for the Southeast was published by the Center in 2003. The publication compares state tactics for managing residential docks and piers in easy-to-use tables. For a copy of the report, visit www.csc.noaa.gov/products/New_England_Dock_Pier_Inventory.pdf or contact Zac.Hart@noaa.gov.

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Future Products and Initiatives

Making social science tools available. The Center is leading an effort to make social science tools more available to coastal resource managers. A Web portal, *HumanDimensions.gov*, will feature information supplied by numerous federal agencies. For more information, contact *Tom.Fish@noaa.gov*.

Survey guide for natural resource managers. Social science tools, such as surveys, can help identify the relationship between the community and natural resources. To strengthen awareness and understanding of survey types and techniques, the Center has published a guide that will soon be available on the Human Dimensions Web page at *www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/human_dimensions/*. For more information, contact *Chris.Ellis@noaa.gov*.

Center participates in Weather Channel show. Center staff members were interviewed for an upcoming Weather Channel show, *It Could Happen Tomorrow*, located on the Web at *www.whatifweather.com*. This segment will focus on the predicted effects of a category five storm hitting Savannah, Georgia. Center staff members will also provide high-resolution storm surge maps and fly-through animations. The show will air in January 2007. For additional information, contact *Doug.Marcy@noaa.gov*.

Legislative atlas. The Center is developing a Web-based mapping and search tool to provide coastal resource managers with easy access to legislative data and information. The tool will include geographic representations of key state and federal legislation, as well as jurisdictional boundaries of state and federal management agencies. The mapping and search features will also help managers visualize and analyze the nation's regulatory framework regionally. For more information, contact *Hamilton.Smillie@noaa.gov*.

Benthic mapping project for Texas coast. The Center is working with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas A&M University Center for Coastal Studies to support the statewide seagrass monitoring program. Existing digital camera imagery, originally collected for the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), is being used to create benthic habitat maps. The seagrass monitoring program in Texas will use these benthic maps to help locate, monitor, and protect seagrass beds. For more information, contact *Bill.Stevenson@noaa.gov*.

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Comprehensive hurricane preparedness study. The Center is working with Georgia's Chatham County Emergency Management Agency to remap storm surge zones using lidar-derived elevation data, and data from the Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) storm surge model. In addition, the Center is creating data that will help officials visualize shallow coastal flood watches and warnings issued by the local weather forecast office. These data are presented via an Internet mapping tool that allows officials to add other hazard planning data, such as infrastructure, critical facilities, and vulnerable populations. For more information, contact William.Brooks@noaa.gov.

Center News

Coastal resilience grants program underway. Through a grant program, the Center will work with various organizations to create a regional framework for a community resilience index. The index will increase the capacity of coastal communities to survive, mitigate, and recover from natural and other hazards. The Center is one of three NOAA offices participating in this effort. An additional grant component is the proposed creation of a Climate and Weather Impacts on Society and the Environment (CWISE) cooperative agreement to address physical, social, and economic impacts of sea level variability and change. The grant recipients will be selected soon. For more information, contact Margaret.Davidson@noaa.gov.

NOAA publications receive high marks. A market research and communications firm, StrategyOne, just completed an external evaluation of the primary publications of the NOAA Coastal Services Center. Both the *Coastal Services* magazine and the *Coastal Connections* newsletter received exceptionally high marks. Readers completed written and oral surveys, which indicated that the two publications are widely read and a trusted source of information about coastal resource management issues and tools. To get on the mailing list for these publications or receive a copy of the evaluation, contact Donna.McCaskill@noaa.gov.

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Training Schedule

Training for your organization can take place at the Center in Charleston, South Carolina, or can be brought to your facility.* For more information, visit www.csc.noaa.gov/training/.

Conservation Data Documentation Training

✦ September 28 Augusta, Maine

Project Design and Evaluation

✦ October 24–26 Ulster, New York
✦ December 12–14 Punta Gorda, Florida

GIS Analysis for Coastal Management

✦ October 24–27 NOAA Pacific Services Center
 Honolulu, Hawaii

Public Issues and Conflict Management

✦ October 30–31 Duluth, Minnesota

Coastal Community Planning and Development Pilot Training

✦ November 7–8 Moss Point, Mississippi

Introduction to ArcGIS

✦ December 4–5 NOAA Coastal Services Center
 Charleston, South Carolina

Coastal Applications of ArcGIS

✦ December 6–8 NOAA Coastal Services Center
 Charleston, South Carolina

* Trainings are generally arranged through local coastal management hosts.



NOAA Coastal Services Center
LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY